



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ryo OZAWA

Group Art Unit : 2621

Appl. No. : 09/726,558

Examiner : D. J. CZEKAJ

Filed : December 1, 2000

Confirmation No. : 1830

For : ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement that was previously filed on March 8, 2001, Applicant hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner a German Office Action dated November 20, 2007 with respect to patent family member German Patent Application No. 10059662.2, in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,887,819;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 5,583,566;
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 4,841,363;
- (4) German Patent Publication No. DE 195 01 581 C2, which is a patent family member of U.S. Patent No. 5,777,602;
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 5,627,584;
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 5,034,888; and

(7) U.S. Patent No. 5,894,322.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the German claims by the German Examiner, is set forth in the German Office Action.

Applicant notes that above-noted documents (2) and (5) – (7) were previously cited by the Examiner during the prosecution of the present application.

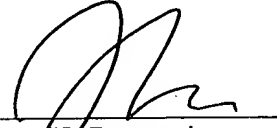
Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. A copy of German Patent Publication No. DE 195 01 581 C2 is attached hereto, and documents (1), (3) and (4) are listed on an attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of an English language translation of the German Office Action is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form, and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicant notes that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to the issuance of a Non-Final Office Action on the merits, but before the issuance of a Final Office Action on the merits. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), Applicant hereby certifies that each new item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from an foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. Thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryo OZAWA



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January 11, 2008
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